

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Request of The Empire)
District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for)
Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates) Case No. ER-2024-0261
For Electric Service Provided to Customers)
In its Missouri Service Area)

RESPONSE TO COMMISSION ORDER
LIBERTY’S FIRST ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty” or the “Company”), and in response to ordered paragraph 7 of the *Report and Order* issued by the Missouri Public Service Commission (the “Commission”) on January 14, 2026 (the “*Report and Order*”), Liberty respectfully states as follows:

1. Ordered paragraph 7 of the *Report and Order* provides as follows: “Empire shall file monthly status reports on the progress toward designing the Arrearage Forgiveness program and awarding the \$8.5 million in associated credits with the first report due 30 days from the effective date of this order.”

2. On February 13, 2026, Liberty reached out to stakeholders by email with the following message, along with a selection of possible in person and/or virtual meeting dates for the remainder of February:

I am reaching out to coordinate an initial discussion regarding the Arrearage Forgiveness program that was recently authorized in the Company’s electric rate case. As contemplated in the Commission’s order, Liberty would like to begin collaborative discussions with stakeholders on how best to establish and implement the program. For this initial meeting, the Company plans to share a preliminary “straw-man” framework intended to support targeted arrearage relief for customers most in need, including those at high risk of disconnection, those struggling to remain current on payment plans, and those who may be ineligible for federal assistance due to arrearage limits. We welcome feedback, alternative ideas, and other considerations to help ensure the program is designed in a meaningful and effective way and that the authorized \$8.5 million in arrearage forgiveness is deployed consistent with the Commission’s intent. The Company has the below dates and times available for this discussion. Please let us know which option works

best for you. If we have inadvertently omitted any parties to the electric rate case from this notification, please feel free to forward this message along so they may participate in the discussion. Thank you, and we look forward to the conversation.

3. Staff responded regarding their availability, and Liberty continues to work with stakeholders on scheduling a meeting to discuss the Arrearage Forgiveness program and awarding of the \$8.5 million in associated credits.

WHEREFORE, Liberty respectfully submits this Response to Commission Order. No action on the part of the Commission is requested at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTORNEYS FOR THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY
d/b/a LIBERTY

/s/

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above document was filed in EFIS on this 24th day of February, 2026, with notification of the same being sent to all counsel of record; and I further certify that the above document was sent by electronic transmission to all counsel of record.

/s/ Diana C. Carter